

tool of the environmental extremists, they had better think again. Just today I read that an organization dedicated to tearing out the dams and transportation waterways along the Snake and Columbia Rivers have already petitioned the White House to designate the Columbia River as an American Heritage River, which would end the water-based barge transportation, affecting hundreds of thousands of jobs, communities and families in the Northwest. No, this is an issue of control of the wealth and control of our people.

What is next, Mr. Speaker? Part 2, No. 2, calls for aerial and satellite surveillance of the rivers. Well, I ask myself, will I have to wear a number on my hat, on the top of my head, so that the Federal bureaucrats in Washington, DC, using aerial photographs, can monitor when I am out skipping rocks on the river with my grandchildren? What is next?

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this issue is indeed about control of our resources, our wealth and our people. It is sad.

As I discussed earlier, water is the lifeblood of America, of the West and of my State, Idaho. But it is not just control over water that is threatened by this un-American "make our backyard every bureaucrat's business" Heritage Rivers initiative.

Nothing less than private property rights and freedom from unnecessary and harmful Federal intrusion is at stake. Farmers, ranchers, fishermen, homeowners and others who live along rivers and deeply love their rivers may find themselves with diminished rights and reduced control over their property and their activities on the river.

Mr. Speaker, these people, the ones who know the river and depend on its health and preservation, should not lose their rights because Federal bureaucrats or Eastern environmentalists want to initiate a warm and fuzzy, politically correct Federal program or another Clinton photo-op.

State sovereignty, individual freedom, protection of property rights are the ideals that have distinguished this Nation, this great Nation. We do ourselves and all American citizens a disservice if we allow power to be usurped in this fashion.

I urge my colleagues to stand up against this ill-conceived and misdirected American Heritage Rivers initiative and to cosponsor the Chenoweth-Pombo bill.

Mr. Speaker, the imposition of the Clinton-Gore extreme environmentalist policies has taken a tragic toll on the West. We are losing our culture, we are losing our heritage, and we are losing the very way of life that we love so much. My good friend Perry Pendley sums up this feeling about the West in his book, "War on the West," when he writes, and I quote:

"The environmental extremists' vision of the West is of a land nearly devoid of people and economic activity, a land devoted almost entirely to the preservation of scenery and wildlife habitat. In their vision, everything be-

comes a vast park through which they might drive, drinking Perrier and munching on organic chips, staying occasionally in the bed-and-breakfast operations into which the homes of westerners have been turned, with those westerners who are able to remain fluffing the duvets and pouring cappuccino. They are well on their way to achieving their objective."

Mr. Speaker, I think Perry Pendley hit the nail on the head. Many people in the United States east of the Mississippi just view the West as one big national park, and the American Heritage Rivers initiative is just one more assault in a long line of programs designed to turn the West into a playground for the East.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FLAKE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. FARR of California (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. CAPPS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. GEPHARDT, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. OLVER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HEFNER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ROTHMAN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes each day, on June 11 and 12.
Mr. PAPPAS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. CAPPS) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BERMAN.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
Mr. RANGEL.
Mr. OLVER.
Mr. FAZIO of California.
Ms. SANCHEZ.
Mr. SANDERS.
Mr. LANTOS.
Ms. ESHOO.
Mr. BOYD.
Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
Mr. STOKES.
Mr. SABO.
Mr. MEEHAN.
Mr. KUCINICH.
Mr. PASCRELL.
Mr. SCHUMER.
Mr. RAHALL.
Mr. PAYNE.
Mr. HOYER.
Mr. TORRES.
Mr. BROWN of California.
Mr. STARK.
Mr. DINGELL.
Mr. FARR of California.
Mr. GEPHARDT.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. QUINN.
Mr. PITTS.
Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
Mr. STEARNS.
Mr. GILMAN.
Mr. COLLINS.
Mr. BONILLA.
Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.
Mr. SPENCER.
Mr. WALSH.
Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
Mr. GOODLING.
Mr. MCCOLLUM.
Mr. LEWIS of California.
Mr. DREIER.
Mr. RIGGS.
Mr. DOOLITTLE.
Mr. MCHUGH.

The following Members (at the request of Mrs. CHENOWETH) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. SHERMAN.
Mr. ETHERIDGE.
Mr. COOKSEY.
Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma.
Mr. WELDON of Florida.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A Bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 610. An act to implement the obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Convention; to the Committee on International Relations and in addition, to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned,

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Thomas, from the Committee on House Oversight reported that that